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Court postpones regulation on octane information

Because of a suit against **Federal Trade Commission**, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has delayed the effective date for FTC's regulation requiring service stations to post the octane rating of gasoline. The commission issued the rule on Dec. 16, and the effective date was set for March 15.

In delaying the octane regulation, District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. has ruled that the new effective date will be 60 days after his decision in the suit brought against FTC by 36 oil refiners, gasoline marketers and oil-industry trade associations. The plaintiffs are challenging, in general, the legal authority of the FTC to issue any trade regulation rule and, in particular, its authority to issue a rule for posting octane ratings.

FTC issued the rule to provide the consumer with information about gasoline octane ratings so he can make an informed decision in buying gasoline. FTC said the use of the proper octane-rated gasoline can control engine knocking and can save consumers money if they have been paying for a higher rated octane gasoline than they need to prevent "knock." FTC noted that octane rating should not be the sole consideration in selecting gasoline.

The plaintiffs' specific challenge is about the requirement that refiners or distributors of gasoline post the minimum octane number on pumps in a clear and permanent manner. FTC ordered that the octane number be the average number of the "research" octane number added to the "motor" octane number. "Research" octane rating is based on laboratory tests, and "motor" rating is based on tests of gasoline during combustion in an auto engine. FTC said the average of the two numbers will approximate the "road" octane rating, which is based on actual performance.

Some of the well known plaintiffs are Cities Service Oil Co., Gulf Oil Corp., Humble Oil & Refining Co., Mobil Oil Corp., Phillips Petroleum Co., Shell Oil Co., Standard Oil Co. of California.

Improved seat-belt systems required

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration urges buyers of new cars to report any violation of new seat-belt requirements or defective operation of seat-belt systems. Under requirements of **Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208**, improved systems must be on all cars manufactured after Jan. 1, 1972.

The standard requires (1) automatic-locking or emergency-locking retractors for lap belts in both front and rear outside seating positions; (2) all lap-&-shoulder belt combinations to have a 3-point design in which the shoulder belt attaches to the lap belt and releases when the lap belt is released; (3) a buzzer & flashing light warning system that reminds the driver and his front-seat passenger if they have not buckled their lap belts when the driver turns on the ignition and places the gear shift in a forward drive position.

Traffic Safety Administrator Douglas Toms urges drivers and occupants to wear available seat-belts "because they provide the best protection currently available." A NHTSA survey indicates about 20% use seat belts and about 4% use shoulder belts. The agency estimates that thousands of lives could be saved annually if all car and truck occupants used seat belts.

To report a violation of the new seat-&-shoulder belt requirements or a defective operation of a system, write to **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Dept. of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590**.

Defective car seats

Four companies have agreed with Transportation Dept. to correct defects in children's car seats they produced after April 1, 1971. Standard No. 213 for automobile child-seating systems requires that all children's restraint systems manufactured after April 1, 1971, meet the standard set by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The companies whose seats failed to meet compliance tests were

- Cosco Household Products—models Nos. 13-168 & 13-169 made April 1-Oct. 31, 1971;
- Pride Trimble, Inc.—models Nos. 875 through 879 made between April 1 and Nov. 30, 1971;
- Frank F. Taylor Inc.—Taylor-Tot model Nos. 786 & 787;
- Buckeye Plastics Co.—model Nos. 1280 & 1290 made between April 1 and Nov. 10, 1971.

To determine whether a particular child seat is one of those listed above, look for the model number and date of manufacture on the label on the rear of seat back or look underneath the seat.

Cosco has requested that defective seats be returned to the company for free replacement. Taylor has requested that its seats be returned to the store where purchased; the store will provide a free replacement. Pride Trimble and Buckeye are providing new installation sheets, which will explain how to correct the defect.

Addresses of Cosco, Pride Trimble and Buckeye are the following:

Cosco Household Products, 2525 State St., Columbus, Ind. 47201;

Pride Trimble Inc., 101 Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91502, Attn.: Mr. Dave Raushel.

Buckeye Plastics Co., 555 Lancaster Ave., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

Guide for buying children's car seats

If you purchased children's car seats prior to April 1, 1971, and want to know if they are safe, or if you are planning to purchase a child's seat now, you may want to read National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's booklet, *What to Buy in Child Restraint Systems*, which is available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 20¢.

The agency outlines the advantages of the various restraint systems and lists points to consider in making a purchasing decision or in evaluating a previously purchased car seat:

- Any seat that hooks over the seatback of the car is unsafe.
- The child seat must give protection from front and rear-end crashes, cushioning the child and preventing him from being thrown free.
- The seat must give adequate protection against whiplash injury by having a head restraint.
- The seat's restraint belts must be at least 1½ inches wide.
- The child's upper body should be restrained by belts or impact pad.
- Any seat constructed of easily bent, flimsy, bare metal strapping, or padded only with thin sponge rubber is unsafe.
- There must be no sharp or pointed hardware.
- Do not use the wrong type of restraint system for the size of the child; the chart below will give you this information.

Type of Restraint	The Child To Be Protected			
	Infants up to 9 months	Children 8 or 9 mos. up to 4 yrs.	Children 4 to 5 years	Children at least 55 in. in height
Infant Car Bed	Yes			
Infant Carrier	Yes			
Child Car Seat	No	Yes		
Child Harness	No	Yes		
Vehicle Lap Belt	No	No	Yes	Yes
Vehicle Shoulder Belt (worn with lap belt)	No	No	Yes*	Yes

* If child is at least 55 inches in height.

Agency continues to ban dangerous toys

The following list names toys that Food & Drug Administration's Bureau of Product Safety banned in December and January because the toys were considered to be hazardous to children. The bureau says that in many cases the toys have been redesigned to eliminate the hazard and redistributed or dropped from the company's product line. The list comprises the generic or brand name of each toy, date of the ban in parenthesis, reason for ban and manufacturer or distributor:

Lock & Key Baby Rattle #120-72-1127 (about 1-26-72) small objects & sharp edges.
Susan Crane Packaging Co.
Dallas, Tex.

Tidy suction rattles #6090A with & without ears (about 1-24-72) small objects & sharp edges.
Tidy Tie Corp.
Monroe, La.

Klatter balls #4530 (about 1-26-72) small objects.
Sugihara Trading of California
Los Angeles, Calif.

Action Tot Toy Tray (1-24-72) small objects & pinching hazard.
Spencer Gifts
Atlantic City, N.J.

Starry-Eyed Clown Squeaky Roly Poly (about 1-26-72) small objects.
The Transogram Co.
New York, N.Y.

Horse & dog suction toy #417; clock suction toy #770 assorted (about 1-24-72) small objects.
Stahlwood Toy Mfg. Co.
New York, N.Y.

Play keys, rattles #616 & #617 (about 1-24-72) small objects & sharp edges.
Nippy Mfg. Co. (P&L Industries)
Jamaica, N.Y.

Humpty Dumpty teether & rattle #240; Babee Bubble rattles #241, #243, #246, #247 & #248 (about 1-31-72) small objects & sharp edges.
Buckeye Plastics Co. division,
Buckeye International Inc.
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Doll in pilgrim's clothing labeled "Made in Japan" (about 1-31-72) sharp wires in hands.
Blum's of San Francisco
(distributor)
Paper Goods Co. (importer)
Cambridge, Mass.

"Perla Nylon" doll (about 1-31-72) pins in hair bow.
D&F Industries Inc.
Cambridge, Mass.

Little Softie squeeze toys #146 & #160; rattle #5-1 ball on "y" shaped handle & 2 balls on ring (about 1-31-72) squeaker removes from squeeze toys; rattle has small objects & sharp edges.
Sanitoy Inc.
Palisades Park, N.J.

Thunderbird bow & arrow set #202 (about 1-31-72) inadequate label.
The Rollin Wilson Co.
Memphis, Tenn.

Mother & daughter doll set style #E5731 (about 1-31-72) "T" pins in head bands.
Roberta Doll Co.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Li'l Beth" & "Teri Tote" doll sets (about 1-31-72) straight pins in hair ribbon or head band.
Goldberger Doll Mfg. Co.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Little Sister & Big Sister" doll set #6116 (about 1-31-72) "T" pins in tams.
Lovee Doll & Toy Mfgs.
New York, N.Y.

"Little Schoolmates" doll set #1279 (about 1-31-72) straight pins in bows.
Natural Doll Co.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Miss Ginny" doll #8565 B (about 1-31-72) straight pins in bows.
Vogue Dolls Inc.
Maldin, Mass.

"Wee Three Family" doll set #82420; "Debteen" doll #91900 & #91940 (about 1-31-72) "T" pins in bows.
Uneeda Doll Co.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Polish" doll #780, "Jennie Lind" doll #1470, "Elsie" doll #1765 & "Cinderella" doll #1445 (about 1-31-72) #780, 1470 & 1445: pins in head bands; #1765: pins in ear rings.
Alexander Doll Co.
New York, N.Y.

"Baby Buttercup" doll set #5500; "Peggy" doll #6111; "Li'l Charmer" doll set #6661, "Peggy" doll #6620; "Teensie Baby" doll set & "Thirstee Walker With Life-Size Bottle" doll set #70-112-5 (about 1-31-72) "T" pins in ribbons.
Horsman Dolls Inc.
New York, N.Y.

Lisa doll #1394 (about 1-31-72) pins.
R. Dakin & Co.
Brisbane, Calif.

Li'l Jolly Joker Doll style #2-310 (about 1-31-72) pins.
Jolly Toys Inc.
New York, N.Y.

"Zonker" clacker balls (about 1-31-72) cord is not synthetic fiber.
Hawkeye Enterprises
Davenport, Iowa

Musical railroad #4010 (about 1-31-72) metal edges of track musical bars are sharp.
Child Guidance Products Inc.
Bronx, N.Y.

Toy plastic hammer order #6658; musical fashion dolls made by Ace Shozai, Japan: Mandolin #4874, bride #4879, baby #4880, Highlander #4878 (about 1-31-72) #6658: small objects; #4874, 4879, 4880 & 4878: straight pins in hair flowers or bows.
F. W. Woolworth Co.
New York, N.Y.

Disney characters with squeaker #653-1010 (about 1-31-72) squeakers remove.
Louis Marx & Co.
New York, N.Y.

Pop corn top #182, Colortone top #99, tiny farm top #333, melody top #190 (about 1-31-72) #182 & 99: small objects & rigid metal shaft; #333: small objects, sharp edges & rigid metal shaft in base; #190: rigid metal shaft in base.
J. Chein & Co.
Burlington, N.J.

Toy fur mouse item #255 & 257 (about 1-31-72) sharp wires in feet.
Wallace Berrie & Co. Inc.
Van Nuys, Calif.

Choral musical top #322 (1-32-72) rigid metal shaft in base.
Ohio Art Co.
Bryan, Ohio

Colored monkey made of sisal rope (about 1-26-72) wire frame ends.
Nancy Sales Co. Inc.
Charlestown, Mass.

"Li'l Precious Squeeze" toy #4100 (about 1-31-72) squeaker removes.
Aim Plastics Inc.
Bronx, N.Y.

Rubber balloon squawker party favor #488A (about 1-26-72) mouthpiece removes.
Atlantic Stationery Corp.
Jamaica, N.Y.

"Tutti" doll #3580 (about 1-31-72) sharp wires in neck.
Mattel Inc.
Hawthorne, Calif.

Continued on next page

New Federal publications

(Almost) Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Boating . . . But Were Ashamed To Ask, published by U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Dept.; free from Office of Boating Safety, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

The following new publications are available at U.S. Government Printing Office Bookstores or by ordering from Manager, Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120. When ordering, please include stock number and make checks or money orders payable to Supt. of Documents.

A Good Life for More People, 1971 Yearbook of Agriculture (cites programs designed to encourage redistribution of the population over the next 30 years and to take some of the pressure off the metropolitan centers), published by Agriculture Dept.; (No. 0100-1459) \$3.50.

Toward a New Environmental Ethic (review and commentary on Environmental Protection Agency, air-pollution control, clean water, solid-waste management, radiation, pesticides & noise); published by Environmental Protection Agency; (No. 5500-0031) 60¢.

Federal & State Standards for the Composition of Milk Products (and Certain Non-Milkfat Products), published by Agriculture Dept.; (No. 0100-1375) 25¢.

Toy list (continued)

Playskool hour glass #105 (about 1-31-72) small objects & sharp nails.

Playskool Inc.,
a Milton Bradley Co.
Chicago, Ill.

Tearie Betsy Wetsie Doll #1158-5 (about 1-31-72) straight pin in hair ribbon.

Ideal Toy Corp.
New York, N.Y.

Baby Party Doll (about 1-31-2) "T" pin in hair ribbon.

Topper Corp.
Elizabeth, N.J.

Stuffed dog #6-104 (about 1-31-72) sharp wires in ears.

Oriental Trading Co.
Metairie, La.

Romper Room Musical Block Clock (about 1-31-72) weights in some blocks can be exposed.

Hasbro Industries Inc.
Pawtucket, R.I.

Musical Roly Poly Toys #5 P7208, #7114 & #7115 (about 12-1-71) flammable.

Marshall Field & Co.
Chicago, Ill.

Dolls #PF22 (ban cited but not issued to company because factory closed since 1970) straight pin in ribbon.

Allied Doll & Toy Co.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Note: Bureau of Product Safety reports an error in its previous list of banned toys (CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1, 1972). The list included Jet party favors whistling blow-outs #502, #518, #515. Only the "horn" shaped toy #518 had been classified as a hazardous item. Favors #502 & #515 were not banned.

If you believe a toy is hazardous and should not be on the market, you may want to notify FDA's Toy Review Committee, describing the toy, its name (if any), model number (if any), name and address of manufacturer (or distributor) and name of store stocking the toy. Send your comments to Toy Review Committee, Bureau of Product Safety, Food & Drug Administration, 5401 Westbard Ave., Bethesda, Md. 20016.

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